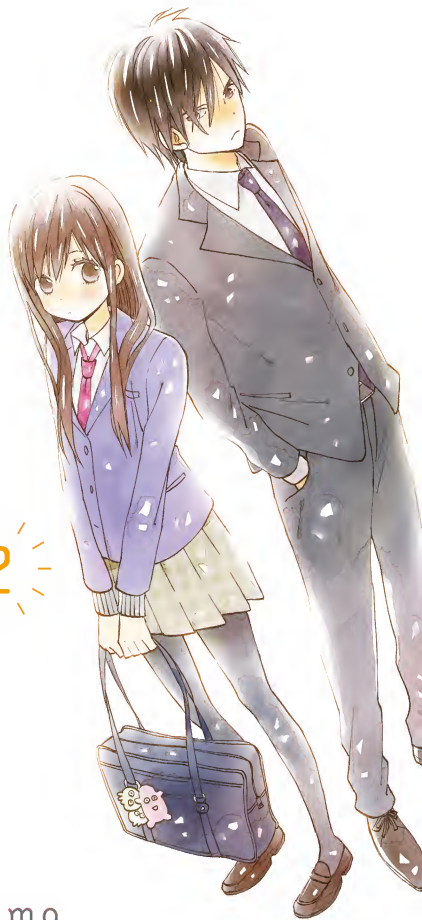


HOUSE of the SUN

2

Taamo



HOUSE of the SUN



by Taamo





-----Story 5-----

Radical-san



-----Story 6-----

Rain Country



-----Story 7-----

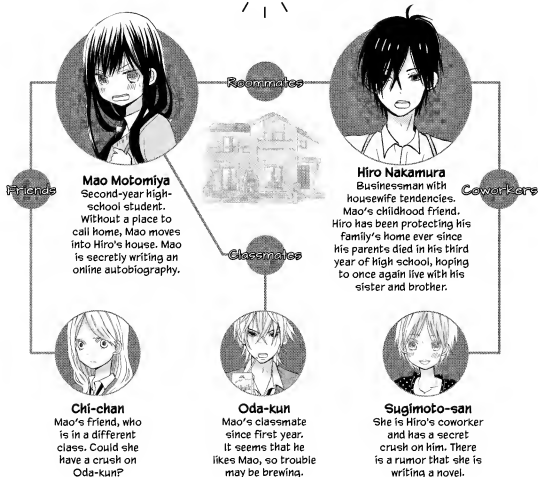
Radical's Crush



-----Story 8-----

Confession





As a young child, Mao spent a lot of time at the Nakamura house.

After her parents got divorced, Mao and her dad moved to a new neighborhood, but since he got remarried, she feels like she no longer has a home.

Hiro invites Mao to come live with him in the house he's been protecting since his parents died.

When Mao realizes she has strong feelings for Hiro, who has always been kind, she blurts out that she "likes" him...



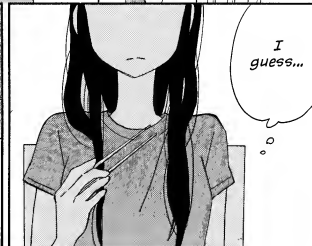
I like you,
Hiro.

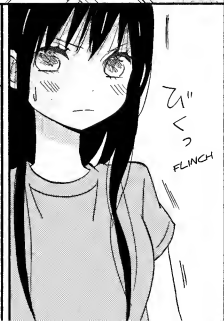
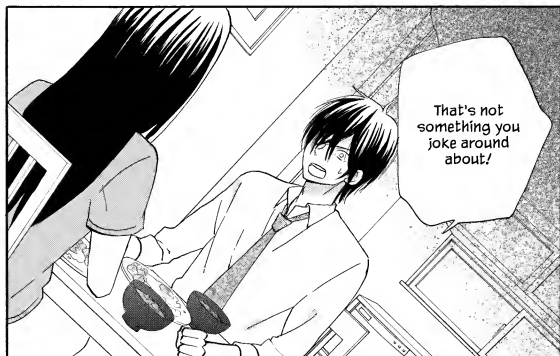
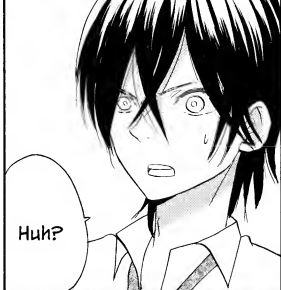
*I knew this
is what would
happen.*

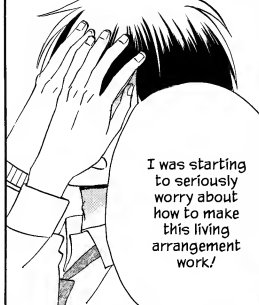
*Why did
I blurt
that out?*

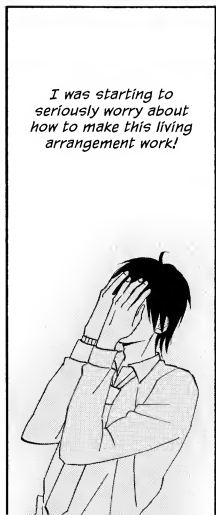














*I'm used
to it.*

It's fine.



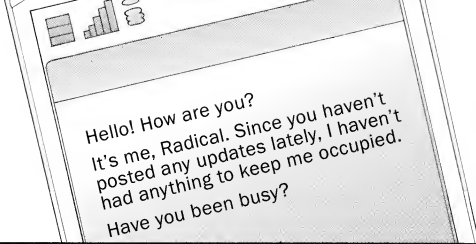
*...ever since
I was a child.*

*I've been
holding back my
true feelings...*

*I'm used
to it.*

*In the end,
I really am a
nuisance.*



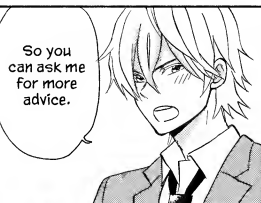


Hello! How are you?
It's me, Radical. Since you haven't
posted any updates lately, I haven't
had anything to keep me occupied.
Have you been busy?



Hey!
Morning!

A boy with spiky blonde hair, wearing a white shirt and a dark tie, is smiling and looking towards the left.





Mao!

?

?

?



CLATTER
「カッ」

?

That's all.



He mentioned books...



I don't know if he was hitting on me...



Was Oda-kun hitting on you again?



I think it's more that he's changed...

Oda-kun is strange...



I hear he comes from a really big family, so I guess it must get complicated.



Yeah, he's been reading books about family lately.



Oh...

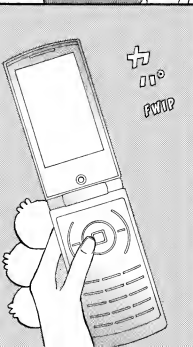
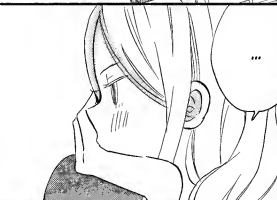


Is she complain-
ing?



Chi-chan,
do you
have a
crush on
Oda-kun?

He used
to be such
a player.

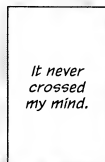






Are they
a girl or
a boy?

And how old is
Radical-san?



Meet
Radical-
san...
Really?

It never
crossed
my mind.



What
would we talk
about?



What's
with your
face?

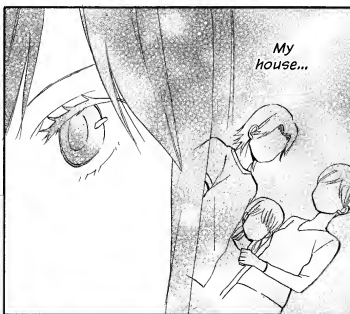
Huh?

It's all
red.



Hey.

I'm
nerv-
ous.





It's obvious
that you're
not fine.



I'm fine.
Just go back
to school.



*I don't
want them
to see each
other if Hiro
is home.*

*I have
to go back
to Hiro's
house.*



I don't
want you to
see that I'm
not getting
along with
my mom.



That's
it!

Maybe I
can say that
Hiro is my
stepbrother...

That's
okay,
right?

I'll bring
you to the
closest
station.

Yeah.

...

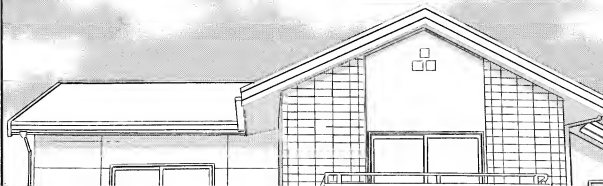
...

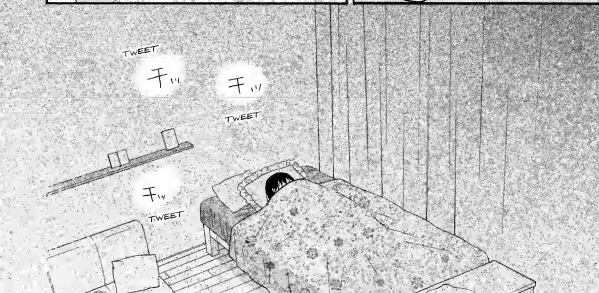
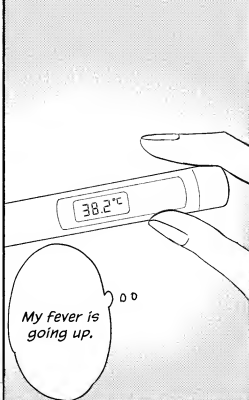
That's
the reason
I'm worried
about you
and tagging
along.

...

Sorry...

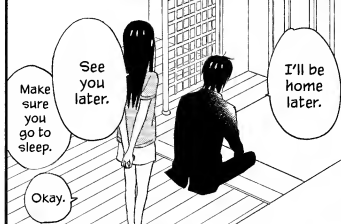
Be
careful
walking
home!













*So why do I
feel lonelier
now that I
have a fever?*

*Wakaba-
chan...*

*I guess I
just want
someone by
my side.*



*I mean,
no one's
ever taken
care of me
before.*



*Some-
thing
feels
heavy!*



*I'm so
lucky to
be in this
house.*

He's back!



ひゅー

He's asleep...



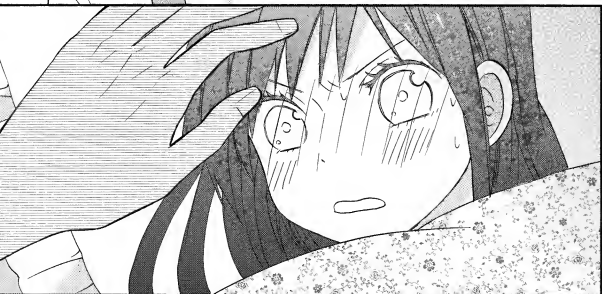
す zzz

...



Hiro... He's always so tired that he falls asleep...





A black and white manga-style illustration. A man with short dark hair, wearing a light-colored long-sleeved shirt and dark pants, is sitting on a bed. He is leaning forward with his head buried in his hands, looking distressed. The bed has a floral patterned blanket. In the background, there is a window with a view of a city skyline, and a large plume of smoke or steam is rising from the left side of the frame. Several speech bubbles and text boxes are scattered around the scene.

I hate him.

It went down a little, but you're still a bit hot.

I hate him.

I hate him.

I hate him.

I was worried about you.

What are you doing here? What about work?

Now, go back to sleep.



*I like him,
after all!*

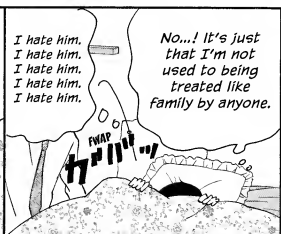


Also, I
finished up
all my work.



The stuff
you left
for me to
drink was
gross!

*I hate
you.*

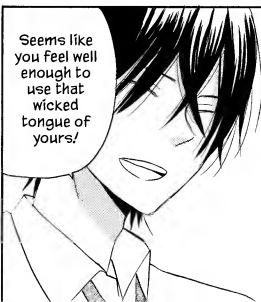


*I hate him.
I hate him.
I hate him.
I hate him.
I hate him.*

*No...! It's just
that I'm not
used to being
treated like
family by anyone.*



Seems like
you feel well
enough to
use that
wicked
tongue of
yours!

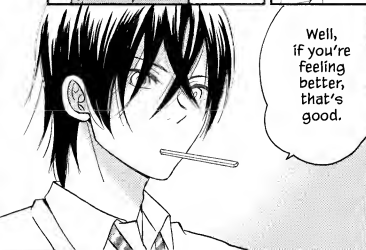


So you
drank it?
That's
great!

*I have
to get rid of
this feeling.*

*Somewhere
far, far away.*





*I have
a promise
to keep.*

Hello! This is Radical.
I can't believe I'm going to
meet you! I'm so happy.
I'll be carrying a black bag.

*Actually,
I haven't told Hiro
about it, but...*

*...and I really
want to meet
Radical-san
and talk.*

*I'm feeling
much better...*

ド
キ
BADUMP

ド
キ
BADUMP

ド
キ
BADUMP

*I'm
starting
to feel
nervous.*

*Everyone
has a black
bag...*

*A black
bag?*

*It says that
Radical-san
is here!*

カ
チ
TAP

TAP
カ
チ
TAP
カ
チ

*I'll text
Radical-san
to try and see
where they are.*





He's not exactly virtuous.

Period dramas, huh...
One of the characters is working out, but the other one...*

I love period dramas!

Radical-san speaks in an unusual way sometimes.

Not virtuous ...

By the way, you haven't posted any updates lately. Did something happen?

*Radical-san likes Date Masamune and Kojuro Katakura, two legendary Japanese warriors that are often portrayed in period dramas.



What?!



Did you, perhaps...

...fall in love?



It's probably because I'm feeling the same way as I read.

I knew it! I got that feeling from reading your novel.



B-but...



You're blushing!



You really are in love with Takashi.



That's
why I can
relate!



?



Even though
I like him, it's
just a bother
to him.

So I have
to forget
about him...



Yes,
instead
of a two-
dimensional
character.

Three-
dimen-
sional?

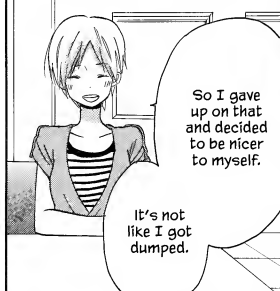
?

I've fallen
for a three-
dimensional
person for the
first time, too.

Now I have
someone I can
chat with, wbut
just talking with
him gives me
this irresistible
uplifting feeling...

So I
decided
to forget
about him.

Before
he joined
our company,
I'd never been
interested in
or even spoken
to a guy.



...so
I can't
forget
him.

...every
day...

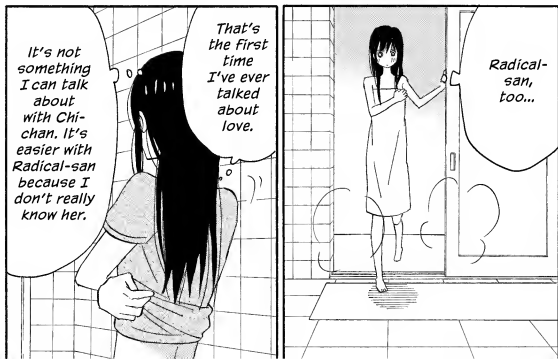
But
I see
him...



It's not
something
I can talk
about
with Chi-
chan. It's
easier with
Radical-san
because I
don't really
know her.

That's
the first
time
I've ever
talked
about
love.

Radical-
san,
too...



I won't
speak
of it
again.

...for me to
continue
liking him?

I won't
speak
of it
again.

Oh, Hiro
is home.

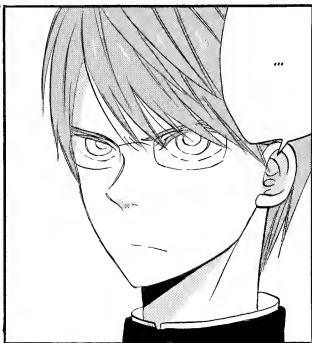
CLANG
CLANG

Just say
"welcome
back"
normally.

Normal!
Normal!

Act
normal,
act
normal...

*I can't
help but
think
about it...*



*Who is
this?*



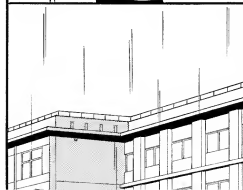
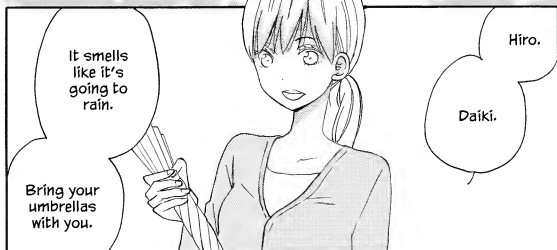
Hello. My name is Taamo.

This is the second volume of *House of the Sun*.

I hope you enjoy it, even just a little bit!

-Taamo









See?
Mom was
right,
after all!



† 0
Drip

† 11

FWUSH

11/ ...

Mom,
Hina is...

Come
on!



I need to
find a save
point. Hold
on just
a sec.

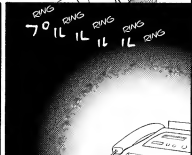


Daiki!
Stop
playing
video
games.

I told you
we're going
to the home
improvement
store today,
didn't I?







*...our
parents died.*

*On that
rainy day...*



*They died
instantly in
an accident.*



*...they
were
so...*

*Just
a few
hours
ago...*

Waah.



*This
can't be
real...*



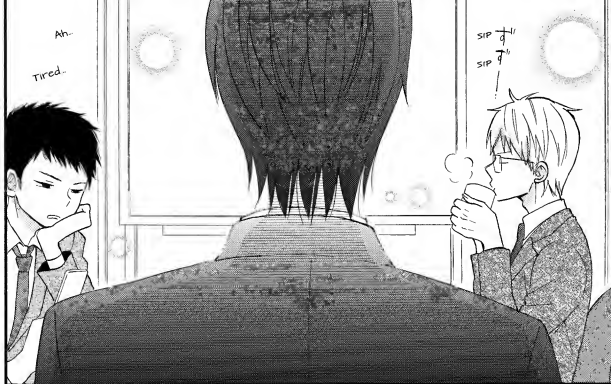
*I have no
choice but to
be their rock!*

*How will
they feel if I
start crying?*

*I have to
act strong.*

*Daiki and
Hina will
get scared.*

*I'll be
strong.*





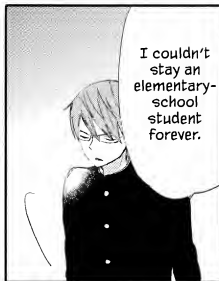


Who
else would
I be?



Ah!

Is that
you,
Daiki?



I couldn't
stay an
elementary-
school
student
forever.



You've
really
grown up!

I didn't
recog-
nize you!



...

He
hasn't
asked me
anything.



I wonder if
he knows
about me
living here.



y-
yeah...





*...when
I said
I liked
you.*



*I was just
joking...*



*That's
just like
her.*

*She must've
been worried
about staying
with me and
causing me
trouble.*





Oh!



And also
to visit
their
grave.



THUD THUD THUD THUD

SLAM

Hey.

So
obvious.



I'll be
in my
room.

I just
remembered
I have
something to
do.



Kind of...

Did she
tell you?

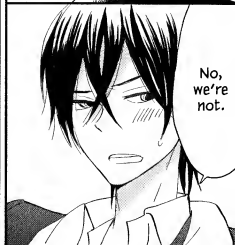
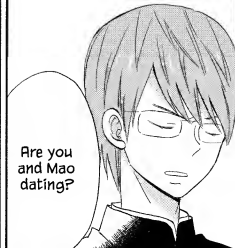
Hina said
she was
gonna
stay where
she is for
another
year.

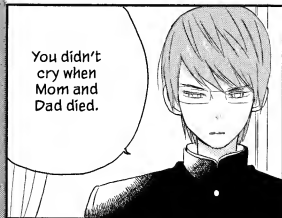


You said
that
already.

It's been
a long
time.

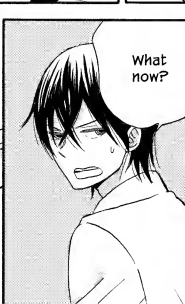
Oh...
right.

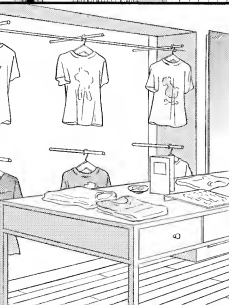
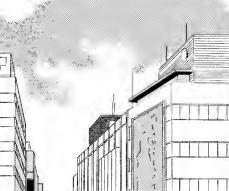
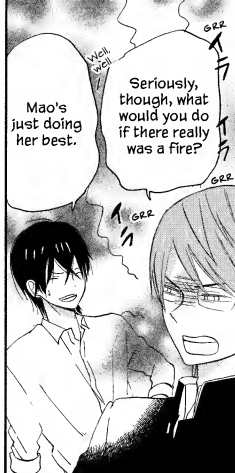




And now you live in this house with a stranger like it's no big deal.





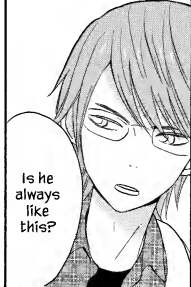






My
brother...

Pretty
much.



Is he
always
like
this?



Hiro?



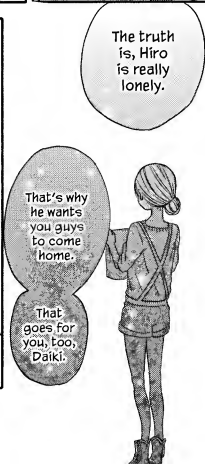
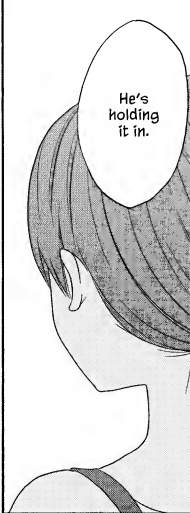
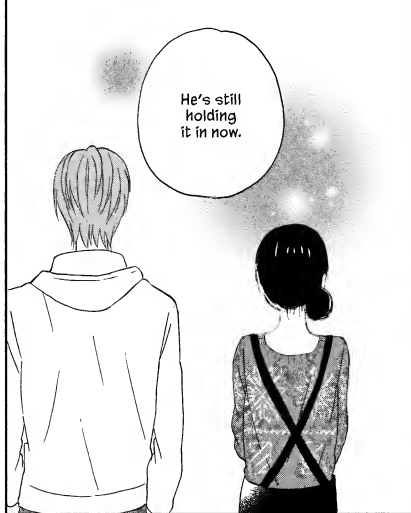
I thought
he was just
bottling
it up.

But
now I'm
not so
sure.

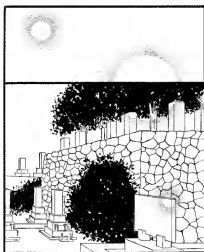
...he never
once cried.

Even when
Mom and
Dad died...











*Total reliance upon the compassion of Amida Buddha





Having Mao around has made that desire even stronger.

It's raining.
Drip



Daiki, you don't know what I really want, huh?

...really want all of us to live in that house together again.

I...



Rain, huh?

Yeah...



She's still worried about Mao.

And about me.

Mom used to say, "Mao, eat dinner here."

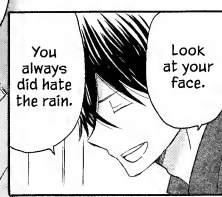
I feel like I can still hear her say that.



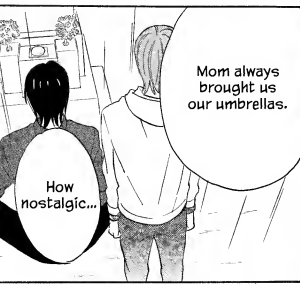
It reminds
me of her.



You
always
did hate
the rain.



Look
at your
face.



Mom always
brought us
our umbrellas.

How
nostalgic...



Well, it is...



No,
it's not!

...but it
isn't.

Mao is
waiting.

Should
we head
back?

We can
make a
dash for the
department
store.

*It reminds
me of her.*



*My throat
hurt from
all the tears
I swallowed.*

*The cold
hospital
that felt
completely
different.*

*The
warmth
of our
house.*

*My mom
and dad's
voices.*



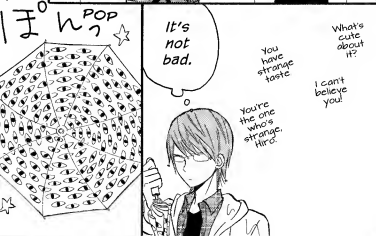
120
°
SPLASH

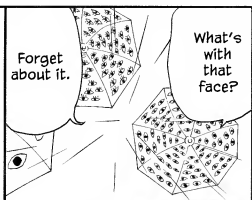
I brought
umbrellas.

Hiro.

Daiki.

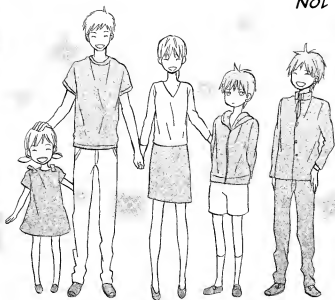






Not since...

...then.

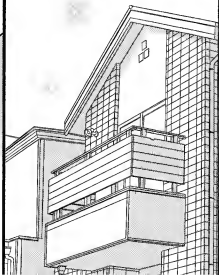


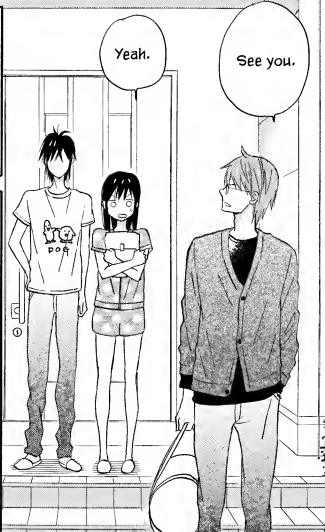
I've got
school.

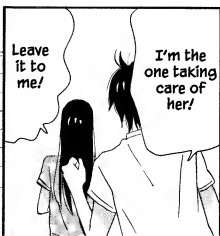
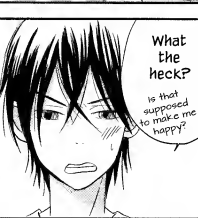
You're
leaving
already?
I was
hoping
you'd stay
longer.

Yeah.

See
you
soon.

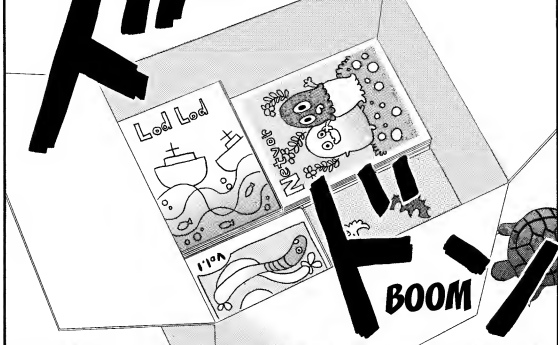














I think he just made a good guess based on your strange taste.

Does Daiki have ESP about what I'm into?

It's Chonmage! So cute!

It is pretty miraculous, though.



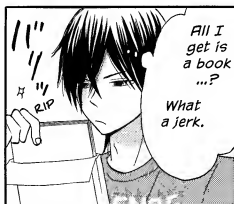
Waaaaa!

FLASH



I'll kill him...! But I'm kind of happy...

*Easy Cleaning Tricks



All I get is a book ...?

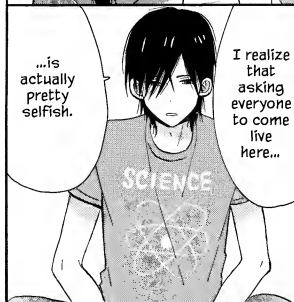
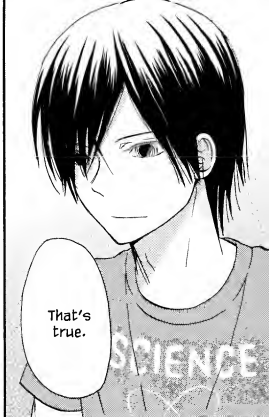
What a jerk.



Hiro.



If he's sending his stuff here, that means Daiki is really planning to come back.





Be quiet!

I'll continue to stay here for a while, so cheer up, okay?

Ouch



But...



That's harsh.

You're right.



Hina-chan must feel the same way.



I feel a little relieved...
That's bad.

Oh, no...



If it were me, I'd be happy...

...to have someone ask for me to come home.

*...I'm sure I'll
have to leave
this house.*



*If Daiki and
Hina-chan
come back...*

*...tomor-
row?*

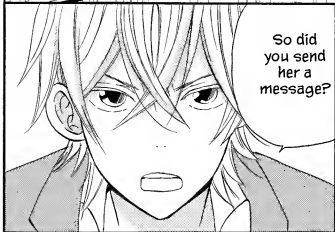
*I wonder if
he'll come...*

*It's been one
month since
I moved here.*

*The day
after
tomor-
row?*

*Or the
day after
that?*

*My dad said
he would come
pay for my room
and board every
month...*



So did
you send
her a
message?

*I wonder
if he ever
wishes,
even a
little, that
I would
go back?*

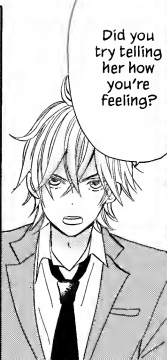


*Does he even
remember me?*



*I talked
to him
about
Hiro...*

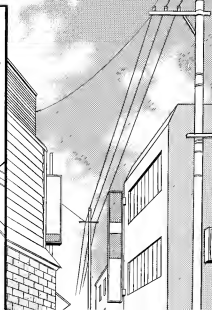
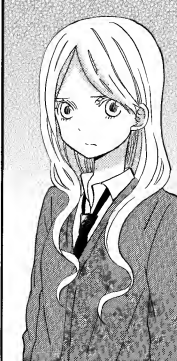
*...and
pretended
it was
about my
mom again.*



Did you
try telling
her how
you're
feeling?









She even asked that I go in my school uniform.



Welcome to my house, Kuukai-san.



Yes! It's so cute. Thank you!

Really?



Oh! I love your high-school uniform! It's fabulous!

Thank you for having me.



I got off at 3:00 PM today.

Thanks for inviting me.

You don't have work today?



Yes. Oh,
you don't
need to be
so polite.
It's a habit
for me,
so just
ignore it.



So you
live by
yourself?



She has
a lot of
figurines,
too.

Wow.



She has
so many
history
books...



Oh! Please
don't look
at that!
Just forget
about it!

?



Yes, it's
my thing.

You have
a lot of
historical
stuff...

It's
amazing.

Σ''
TA-DA



**Rat
snakes?**

Ma-kun
plays with
Japanese rat
snakes using
his small
member!

Ma-
kun?

So cute
and cool.

Ma-kun
is so
cute!

Y-yeah.

It's
weird,
right?

Oh! She
must be
talking
about the
guy she
likes!

Ma-kun actually refers
to Masamune Date.

A business
trip?
That's so
funny!

Is
that a
busi-
ness
trip?

He wears a
white robe
and goes
to Odawara
to cause
mischief.

Oh,
right,
you
updated
your
posts.

It must
make work more
interesting,
but...

**Radical-
san works
with a very
strange
person...**

I don't have a computer I can use at the house I'm staying at...

I write my blog on the computer, but you only use your cell phone, right?

I couldn't use the computer back home, either, for that matter...

When I first discovered your blog, I was deeply moved.

Yes.

The couple?

There are lots of meaningless blogs out there, but yours was like a godsend.

From the start I felt a connection to the couple.

But you're in high school!

You're cohabitating?!

...living with the person I like.

The truth is... It's complicated, but...right now...I'm...

The house you're staying at?

No! It's not like that!



Well, whatever the reason, it's wonderful that you can live together.



I can't really explain it more than that.

Um, it's really complicated.



I really enjoy my workplace.



NOD
コケッ



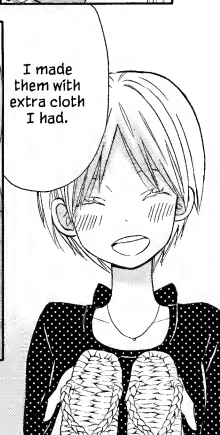
Um...

So tell me more about the guy you like.

Yes!

And Ma-kun is so weird.

It sounds like fun...





Would you like to come by in the morning on the weekend?



Oh, it's already late.

Oh, I have to go home. My curfew is pretty early.

No more thinking about that.



Radical-san is so cute when she talks about the guy she likes.



It's decided, then!

Yes!



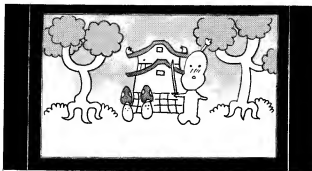
It's fun talking with Radical-san.

I want to hear more about Ma-kun.

Yeah, I can't get enough of him.



*Chatting
about guys
we like...*



FWIP
FWIP
FWIP

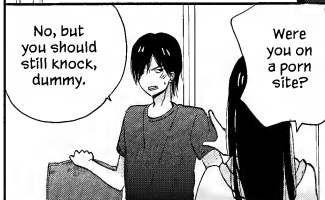


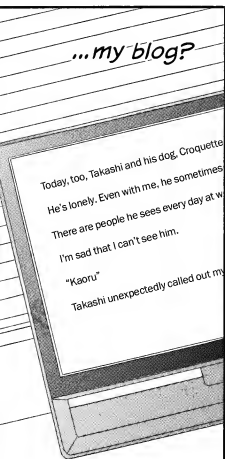
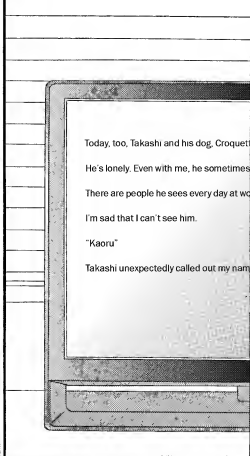
Hiro!

SLAM

*I have
to show
them to
Hiro!*

***...is a
success!***







Don't
get so
excited.

What?!

I was just
reading
this stuff
for work.



You can
talk now,
you know.

And the girl
who writes this,
Solami-san, is
exactly like one
of the girls I
work with, so
I wonder if it
might actually
be her.

I know
she writes
a blog of
some kind.



There's
a guy in
here that
reminds me
of myself.
It's kind of
fun.

My eyes met
Takashi's eyes,
and we stared
at each other
for a moment...

I can't
believe Hiro
has been
reading
my diary
and my
fantasies...

I'm
kind of
confused,
actually.

It's
Kuukai,
not
Solami!

I'm way
more
confused!

Hey,
what's
wrong?

Aaaaaaaah!

I want...
to die...

Waaaaaah...!

トニティン
DING DONG

Don't get
so worked
up that
you start
to cry.

CLENCH
CLENCH



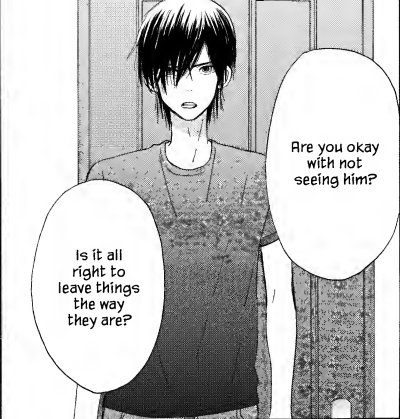
He called
earlier.

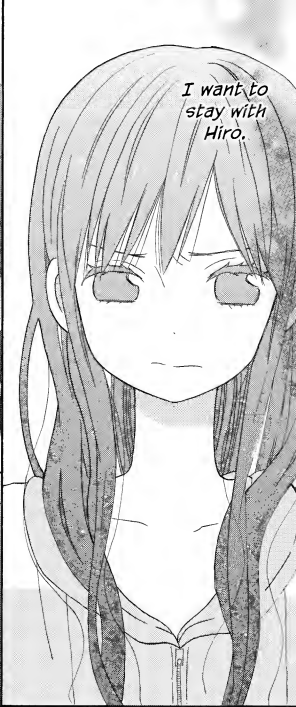
It's your
dad.

?











...I have no idea what to do.

Whatever ends up happening...

What should I say?

Would it be strange if I smiled?

What kind of face should I make?

「い」
O O
PUSH
PUSH



ひん
くっ
JOLT



Mao.

KER-CHAK



...mop-
sandals?

Are
these...



They're
supposed
to be
good for
cleaning
floors.

I was
surprised,
too.



I can
imagine.
And you
have bad
coordi-
nation,
too.

How
did you
do it?

They
were
pretty
hard to
make.



...



My
father...

You
just put
them
on.



I did.

Did you
make
these for
me, Mao?



...without seeing me.

...just wearing these ...

...left this house...

...wash the floor ...

You can...





"Mao."

"It's the one
you wanted."



...that I
ended up all
alone?

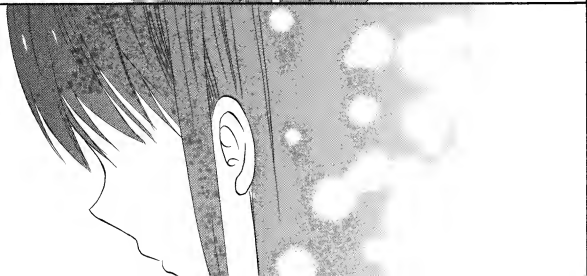
When was
it exactly...

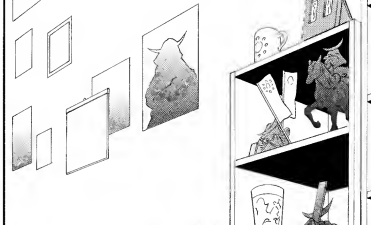
When
was it...



I don't know
when you two
will understand
each other...

...but until then,
it's fine for you
to stay here.





Why...

*...does
Hiro...*



*Did she
get more
stuff?*

...always...



*Were
you
busy?*

*Kuukaī,
you stopped
posting
updates
again.*

*...say the
words...*

*...I want
to hear?*



*What?
Are you
serious?*

*I can't...
post
anything...
for a
while...*





Wah
ah ha
ha!



I see him every
day, so I can't
forget him.

has a
blog of
some kind.

I know
she...

Huh?

There's a
guy I like
at work...

Huh?





...of the
guy I like.

You saw the
picture...



Huh?

I'll send out four-part comics describing my daily work with this manga.

I want to do this if I have extra pages in the middle of the book.



This is me, Taamo.

I drew everything fully digital, so I'm worried about the outcome.

I'm sorry that it's hard to read. I'm sorry about my animal drawings, too. I'll do my best.



Revision.

Meeting with the boss.

Hello!

About Radical-san's expressions...

Oh! Yes, I'm sorry.

I think there are many readers who may be confused, so we're adding notes.

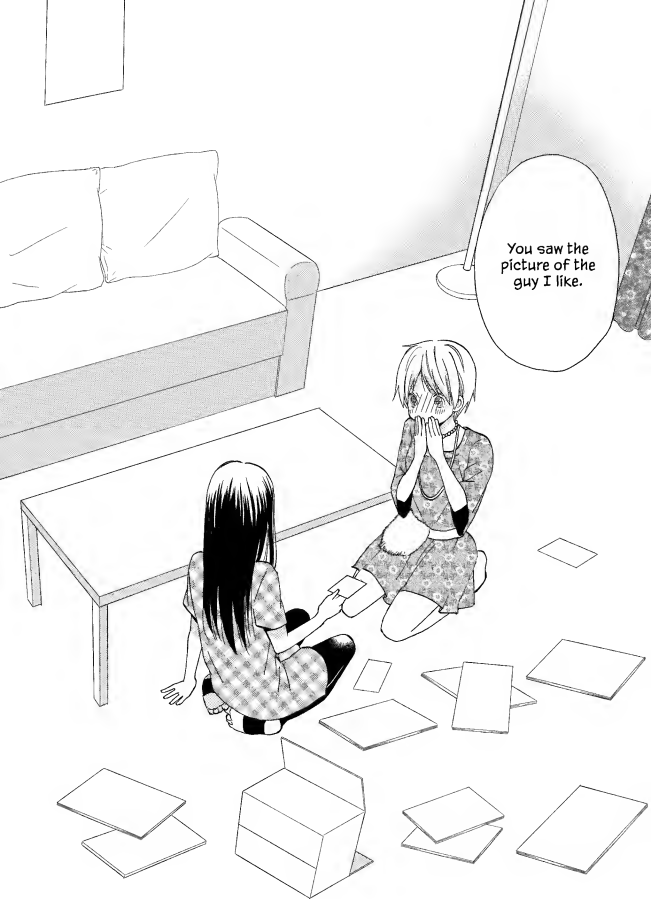
Mao doesn't understand either, so I didn't bother to explain.

It's true that readers in the boondocks and non-otaku readers may need explanations about the usage of terms such as "three-dimensional" and "fanfiction," words that diverge from the mainstream.

What? Is that it?!

*Note: Radical likes Masamune Date and Kojuro Katakura.





...Radical-san likes?



The guy...

Um, this picture is from a company trip.

Doesn't Radical-san like a guy named Ma-kun?

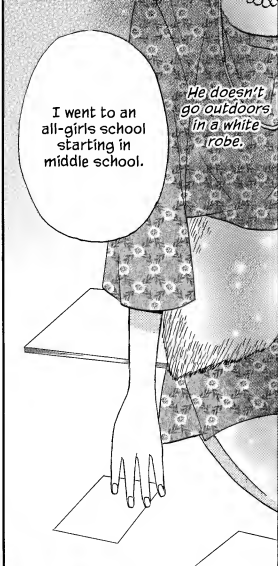


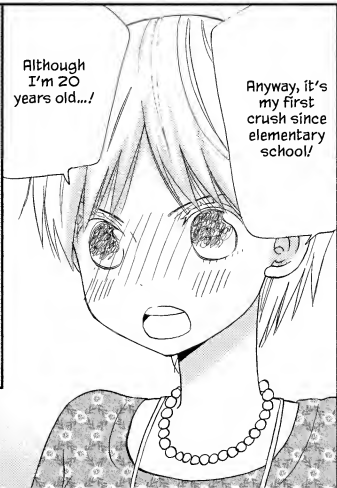
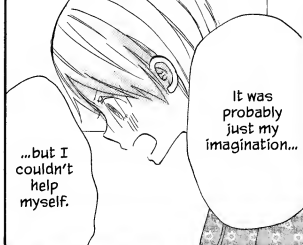
I acted all casual while I was taking the picture, but I was so nervous.

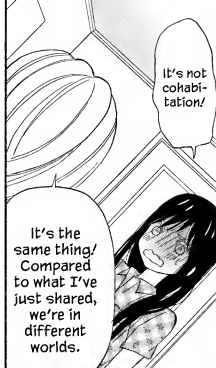
And he doesn't fight with Japanese rat snakes.

There's no "Ma" in "Hiro."









#11
14
CLENCH



I want
to be
supportive...

...of
Radical-
san.

I
really
do...!

But...



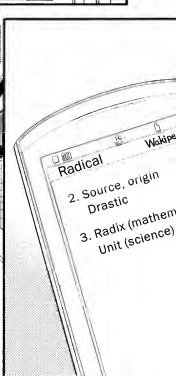
You'll get
in trouble
if you
don't go
home.

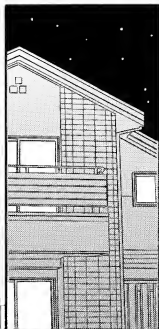
Oh,
Kuukai-
san, look
at the
time.

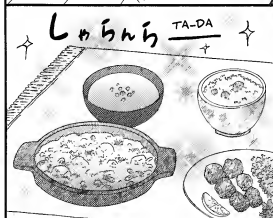


How nice. As
someone living
alone, I kind
of envy you.

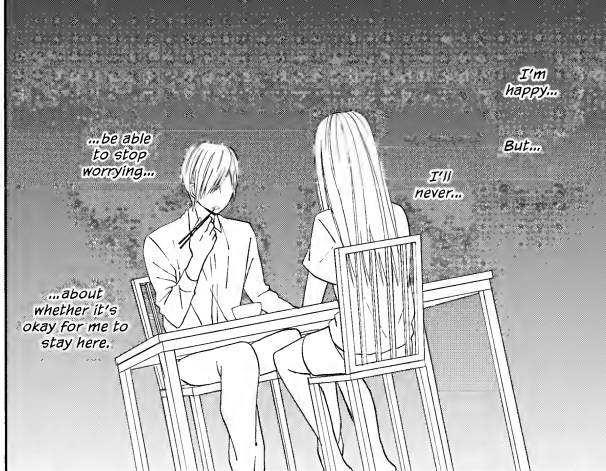




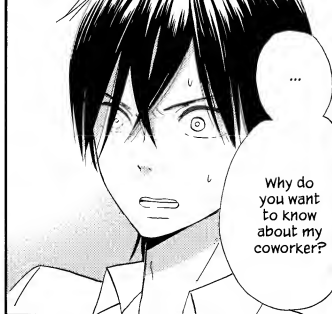








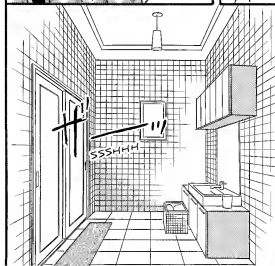




Why do you want to know about my coworker?



What else?





Oh, but
I don't
know
Daiki's
contact
info!

Maybe
I can get
Daiki to
ask him
via text?

~ Even more
panicked now.

No...
That
doesn't
make any
sense!

I know...
I'll ask
him
through
my blog!

Hiro, do you
have a crush
on anyone?
Someone at
work, perhaps?

← Total
panic.

SLIDE
カ
ラ
ッ





No, you weren't!

I was brushing my teeth.

Why are you sweating so much?

What are you doing?!

Leave my naked body alone!

P-
pervert!!

SLAM







*It's such
a simple
question...*

*...so why can't
I ask him?*



Looks bad
no matter
how you
look at it.



は、
PANT

I thought
that if I
looked at
your cell
phone...

ギィギィギィ
NGH NGH NGH

Did I do
something
wrong? Is
it me?

Huh?

...I could
find out
who your
crush is.



*But I
can't help
wondering
about it.*

*I
can't
look
at it.*

...

*I'll be a
nuisance,
after all.*

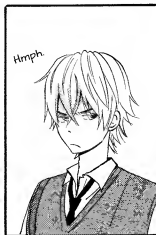
*If Daiki and
Hina-chan
come back to
live here...*

*If Hiro has
a crush on
Radical-san...*

*I'm always
a nuisance.*

*No matter
where I go...*







By the way, you seem down...

Is anything wrong?



I'll double-check.

Oh, I think there's a romantic period drama, actually.



...!!

Oh, that came up in my little sister's girly comic yesterday.



Urk.

Something like that?

Does your friend like the same person as you?

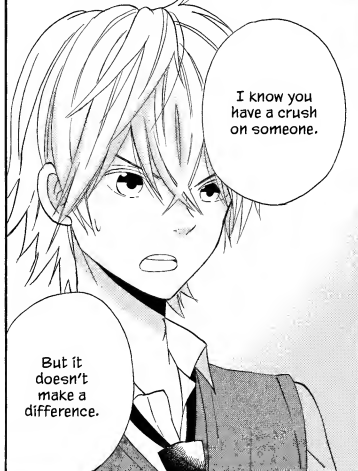


No!

Is that why you were rejected?



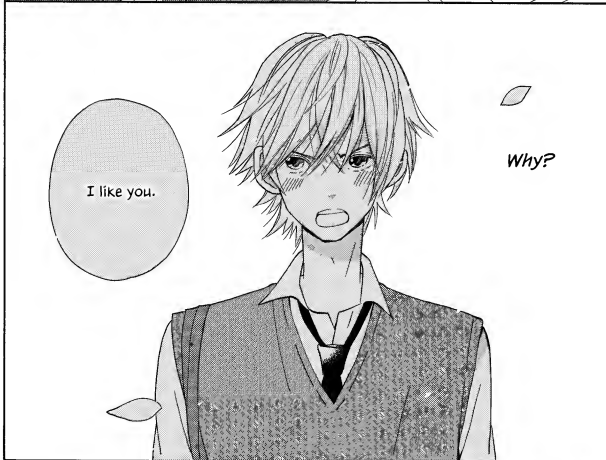








Okay, then,
I'll make it so
you think of
me that way.



I like you.

Why?



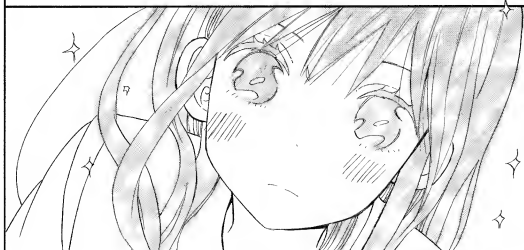
...straight-
forward?

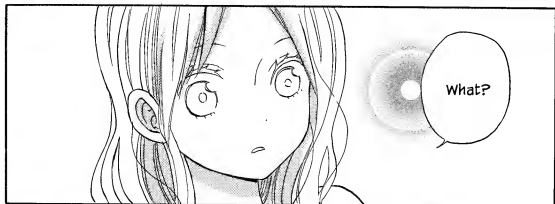
...can he
be so...

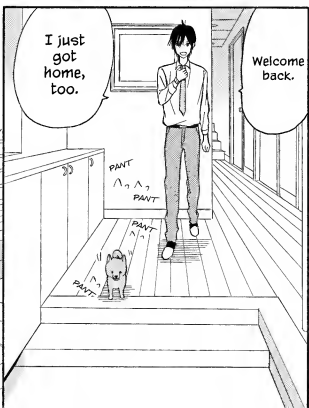
How...

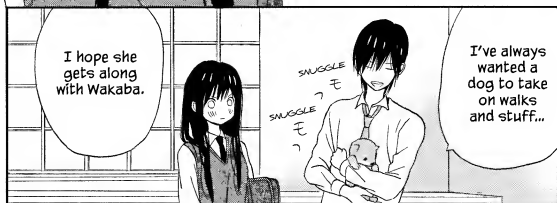
*I like
you.*

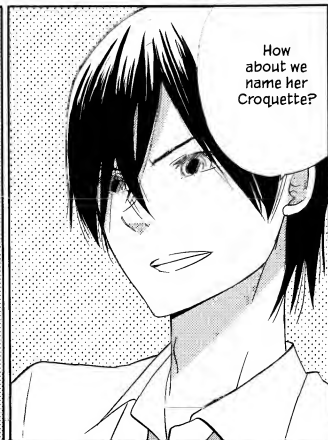
*It's my first
crush since
elementary
school!*





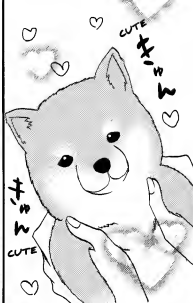








Ugh



Does
that
mean
he
wants
me
here?

Did he say
he got it
because
I'm
staying
here?



I can't
wait to
go on
walks!



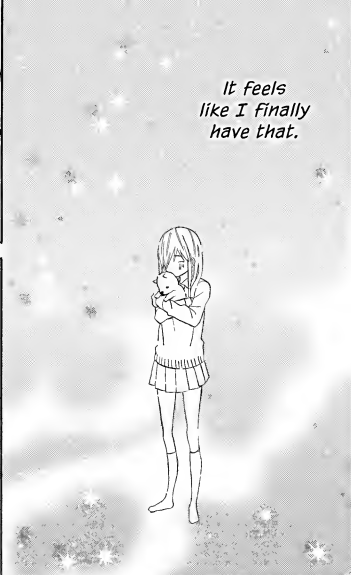
Cute!
Cute!

So cute!

...where
I belong.

I have a
place...

I'm so
happy.

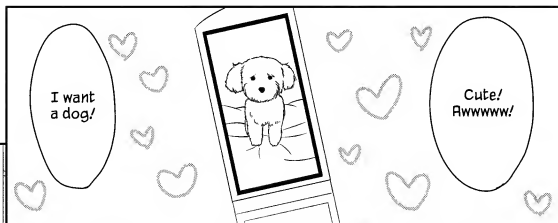


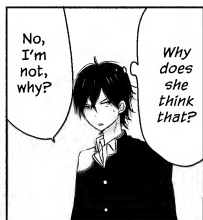


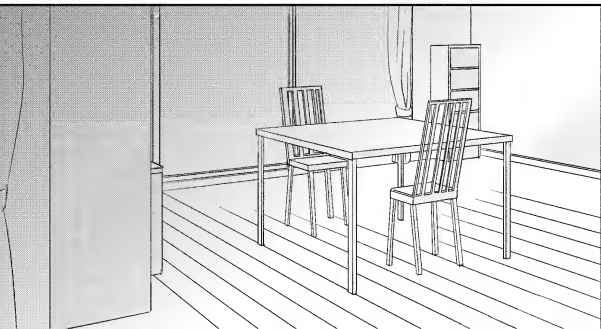
...like
everyone else.

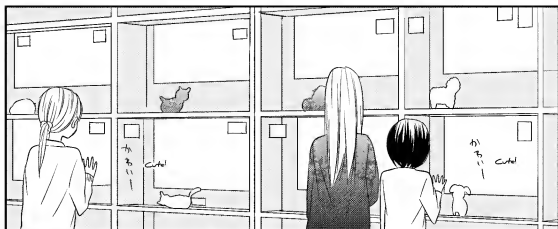
...be
straightforward...

To be continued...











Liar.
Your face
says it
all.

...

No,
nothing
in parti-
cular.

Did
some-
thing
happen?

You can
have it,
Hiro.

Arts and crafts.
That brings back
memories.

Hee
hee
hee

I made
it in
arts and
crafts!

A three-
eyed dog

Look!
Isn't this
amazing?
It's good,
right? It's
a dog!

カッ
DOOM!

No,
thanks.

Oh, but
seeing you
act so silly
just now
cheered
me up.

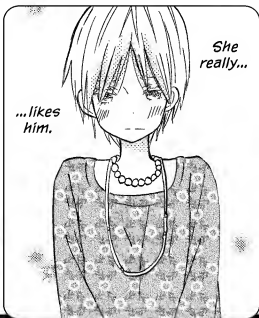
You should
treasure it
and take
care of it
yourself.

I can't get
a dog. But
maybe I could
buy a turtle...
Maybe I
should go
back.

Me,
silly?!

End of extra chapter

Unexpected Confessions...



Mao confesses her crush on Hiro, and Oda tells Mao he likes her.



It feels like these confessions are going to cause a big change...



A change at school for Mao...



I'm so happy.

Will Radical-san make a move?!



...and at home for Hiro and Mao.



...at work for Hiro...

Wha!

What will happen...?

HOUSE^{of} the SUN 3

Popular right now!

I'll give my all for volume three, too!



House of the Sun 2

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